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CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, January 11, 2002

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GOVERNOR REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM Allocates \$8.46 Million and Appoints Two Board Members

Sacramento — In a one-two boost for development of a high-speed train network in California, Governor Gray Davis has approved the funding to complete the system's environmental clearance report and has appointed two members to the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) Board.

In yesterday's budget unveiling, the Governor allocated a total of \$8.46 million for the 2002-03 fiscal year, which combined with \$1.25 million in a federal appropriation HSRA received last month, makes it possible for HSRA to complete a program-level state and federal environmental clearance (EIR/EIS) report by June 30, 2003.

"The Governor's commitment to finalizing this first and essential step toward the construction of the high-speed rail system, especially within a challenging economic environment, shows true vision and conviction and is encouraging for Californians desperate for reliable and safe transportation options," said Rod Diridon, HSRA chair.

"His actions remind me of those of Governors Warren and Pat Brown who had the courage to lay the foundation for the great state we enjoy today," said Diridon.

Diridon also commended the Governor's appointment of two prominent Californians to the nine-member HSRA board, Dr. Ernest A. Bates and Joseph E. Petrillo. Dr. Bates, a former Senate appointee to the HSRA board, is CEO of American Shared Hospital Services in San Francisco. Mr. Petrillo is a partner in the San Francisco law office of Sheppard Mullin Richter and Hampton.

These actions, said Diridon, build on the Governor's consistent support for high-speed train route planning since the beginning of his administration, which included signing of legislation to continue the work of the Authority and to provide funding within the last two budget cycles to initiate and continue work on the EIR/EIS.

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